

LIBRARY BOARD BULLETIN

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND USA

2009 Annual Meeting Plans and 2008 Memories



The first annual meeting between the Montgomery County Library Board (MCLB) and Library Advisory Committees (LACs) was held on June 14, 2008. The primary focus of the meeting was to address LAC concerns raised during the previous year and provide an atmosphere amenable to collaborative problem solving in order to bolster the health and effectiveness of the Board/LAC network. The meeting featured a keynote address from Catherine Leggett, Senior Vice President, ICMA-RC. Additionally, meeting attendees were able to participate in two of three different break-out sessions facilitated by

Catherine Leggett; Bruce Adams, Director of the Office of Community Partnerships for Montgomery County; and Lynn Bradley, Director, Office of Government Relations of the American Library Association. A report summarizing LAC priorities and concerns raised to the MCLB was then presented. The meeting was then concluded following the presentation of the 2008 MCLB Achievement Awards.

Special points of interest:

- **First Annual Meeting photos and story**
- **LAC Award Applications due April 1. Don't be left out!**
- **Calendar of Events**
- **Hold the Date. 2nd Annual Library Board/LAC meeting is June 13, 2009 at Montgomery College, Germantown**

LAC Awards

APRIL 1—APPLICATIONS ARE DUE

At and after the First Annual Meeting we heard comments about the limited number of LACs receiving awards.

This is the time for ALL LACs to seize the opportunity to submit your award application to receive

recognition and our beautiful glass trophy suitable for display at the Branch represented by the LAC. Don't be left out this year.

AWARD APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW.

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Lynn Bradley Workshop



Catherine Leggett Workshop



DRC-LAC Renaissance Award

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING



**Damascus LAC Member Award
Erin Maddox**



Damascus LAC Members

Calendar of Events 2009

April 1. LAC Awards Submission due. All LACs should have the criteria and application. Contact us if additional copies needed.

June 13. 2nd Annual Meeting, (2nd Saturday in June), 8:30am-1pm. Includes refreshments (light breakfast and lunch) two workshops, and an awards ceremony followed by a brief open session.

Location: Montgomery College, Germantown campus, Globe Hall.

Time: 8:30am registration and refreshments

Program: Two Workshops, Awards Ceremony and brief Open Session.

Parking: Plentiful and free

November 11. Library Board/LAC/FOL Joint meeting (2nd Wednesday in November)

One priority item of the Library Board is working closely with the LACs to provide outreach into the community.



Bruce Adams Workshop



Parker Hamilton and Maggie Nightengale from Poolesville



Although we face difficult economic times ahead, we must continue to advocate for our library system.



County Council Vice President (then) Phil Andrews and attendee Goldensohn

From the Chair



Lois Neuman, Chair, Library Board

Greetings from the Library Board. We look forward to working with you in the new year.

One priority item of the Board is working closely with the LACs to provide outreach into the community. In this, our first issue of the Library Board Bulletin, we share with you a review of our outreach event, our First Annual

Board/LAC Meeting, and our plans for 2009. You will notice photographs of our 2008 award recipients and encourage you to submit your 2009 award application. The Board listened to the concerns of the LACs as presented at meetings November, 2007-April, 2008. One of the changes implemented as a result of the presentations is the LAC membership approval will now take place on a rolling basis at any Board meeting instead of only two months out of the year. This will allow new members to become an active part of the LAC more quickly.

Although we face difficult economic times ahead, we know we must continue to advocate for our library system. To this end, you will find Talking Points and Communication Strategies to articulate your support of the library system in the County.

We look forward to seeing you at the events of the year and LAC meetings.

Let us continue to hear from you with your concerns and successes.

Library Board Bulletin

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND USA

Talking Points and

Communication Strategies

Talking Points*

Value

In a tight economy, our county library use goes up.

A recent Montgomery County resident survey revealed our libraries received a 7.39 on a 9-point scale for the average service category.

Voters love libraries and come for voter registration, computer use, programs, and community meetings.

Libraries are ubiquitous and touch all aspects of the county, are visible and represent a vocal, well-connected community.

During an economic downturn, people turn to libraries for services. In FY08, MCPL had 9M visits with 88% of visitors at least once per month. **In January 09 we have fewer staff, programs, materials, and longer lines.**

Cost

The cuts of 1990s have never been recovered.

Comparatively, the MCPL budget is a very small percentage of the total budget. The risk of cutting dollars is the loss of good will, confidence, and trust from county residents and library community

*Talking points prepared by Otto Lewis.

Personalized approach—individual , hand-written letters.

Phone calls

Visually identify yourself and your group by a banner, tee-shirt or other item.

Let your elected officials hear from you, our library patrons, so they know you value the service.

We must speak up.

Emphasize the unacceptable trade off of short term issues for long term value.



Members of the Library Board Montgomery County Maryland USA

2008-2009

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Mr. David Chiles

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